

What is claimed is:

1. A driving authorization system, in particular for motor vehicles, comprising: an electronically codable recognition device fixed to the vehicle, and a corresponding external, electronic enabling device (36), which can be inserted into the recognition device, at least one vehicle-specific device being capable of being enabled in response to the enabling device (36) being recognized by the recognition device, the recognition device having a receiving device (10), which forms a receiving region (14), in which the enabling device (36) can be forced in a releasable and lockable manner into at least one position (II); the enabling device (36) in the receiving region (14) being capable of being forced from the one position (II) into an additional position (III), in which an elastic restoring force for returning the enabling device in the direction of the one position (II) can be applied; and in the receiving region (14), an actuating device (50; 52; 70, 70a), which can be triggered by the enabling device (36), being present for detecting the enabling device (36) in the one position and the additional position (II, III), and for triggering a respective, corresponding ignition-lock function, wherein an additional separately releasable locking mechanism is provided for locking the enabling device (36) in the one position (II).
2. The driving authorization system as recited in Claim 1, wherein the ignition-lock function corresponding to the one position (II) is the ignition-on-function, and the ignition-lock function corresponding to the additional position (III) is the engine-start-function.

3. The driving authorization system as recited in Claim 1 or 2, wherein the enabling device (36) can be forced in a releasable and lockable manner into at least one additional position (I), which can be detected by the actuating device (50; 52; 70, 70a), and in which the actuating device (50; 52; 70, 70a) triggers a corresponding, additional ignition-lock function, preferably an ignition-neutral-function.
4. The driving authorization system as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein an elastic locking pin device (60-63), which interacts with notches (37, 38) provided in the enabling device (36) for releasably locking the enabling device (36) in the one position (II), is provided in the receiving region (14).
5. The driving authorization system as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the enabling device (36) is a smart card that can be inserted through a slit (20) into the receiving region (14).
6. The driving authorization system as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the actuating device (50; 52; 70, 70a) has at least one mechanical and/or optical position sensor (50;52) for detecting the enabling device (36) in the particular position (I, II, III).
7. The driving authorization system as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the additional position (III) can be reached by applying pressure to the enabling device (36) from the one position (II) until reaching a stop (90, 92), and a spring device (80, 82) is provided

that returns the enabling device to the one position (II) in response to the pressure no longer being applied.

8. The driving authorization system as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein, in at least one of the positions (I, II, III), the actuating device (50; 52; 70, 70a) triggers a communication between the enabling device (36) and the recognition device.

09656112.082801